

Factors associated with HIV serostatus among women in Zimbabwe: The role of intimate partner violence, gender inequality and male partner characteristics

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Introduction

- Domestic violence in Zimbabwe has deeply rooted structural explanation linked to:
 - history of colonialism and white minority rule
 - Political transition and economic crisis
 - Changes in expected gender roles for women and men
- Adult HIV prevalence rate in Zimbabwe -18%
 - 58% of adults living with HIV (2003) were female





Introduction (cont'd)

- Numerous studies in the U.S. have linked IPV and women's risk behavior
- Limited research in Africa have linked IPV and HIV
- No study in Zimbabwe has explored the link between risk of HIV and gender inequality related factors including IPV
- The current study contributes to the foundation of quantitative research on this topic





Data and Methods

- Used the 2005-06 Zimbabwe DHS survey couples' data
 - 1st national representative HIV serostatus and domestic violence sample
- Bivariate and logistic analyses of selected risk factors on women's serostatus

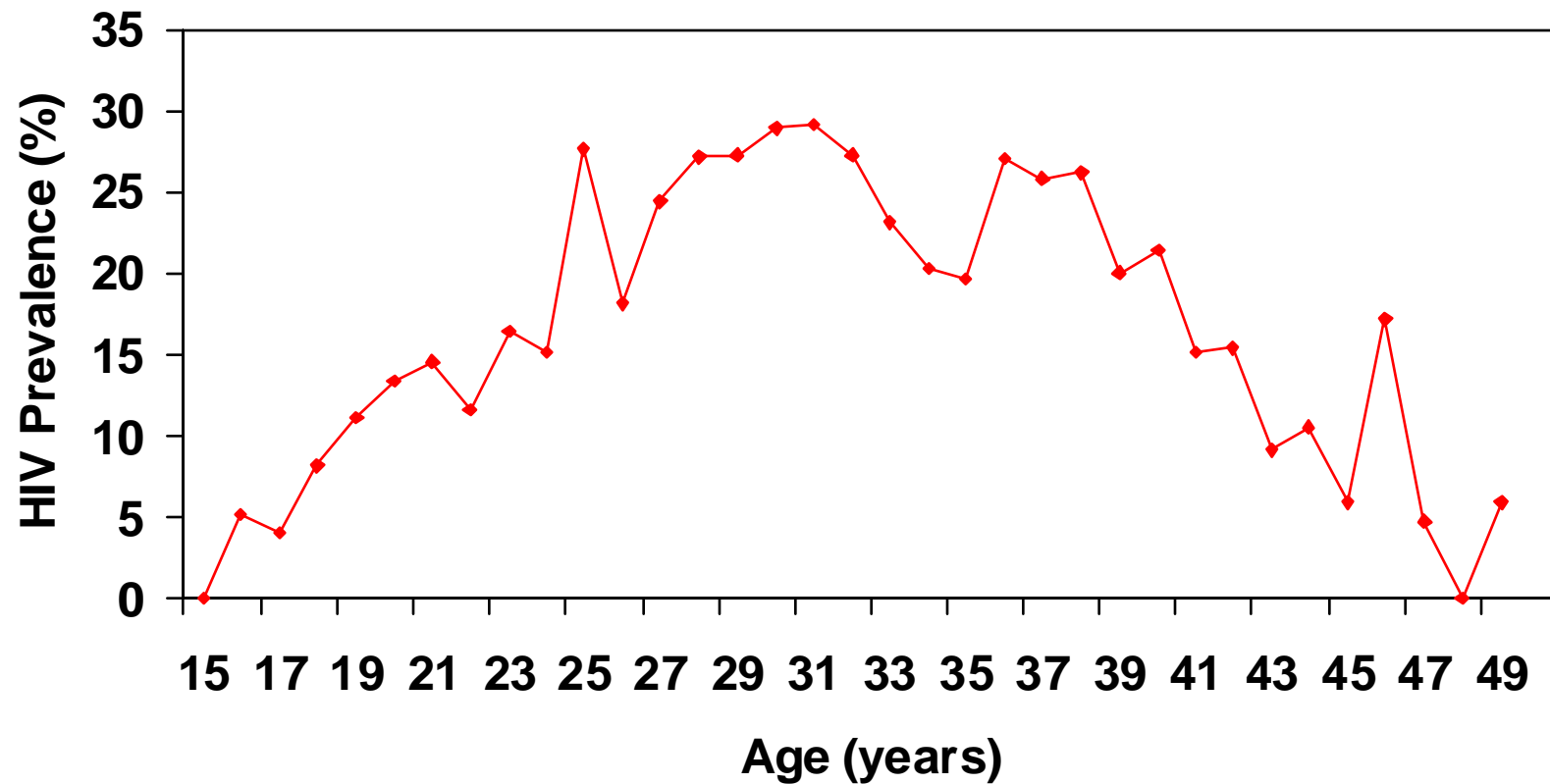
Research Objectives:

- Articulate the degree of influence of IPV and gender inequality on risk of HIV infection
- Identify men's characteristics and risky behaviors associated with women's risk of HIV infection
- Identify women's characteristics associated with HIV seropositivity





HIV Prevalence among Married Women

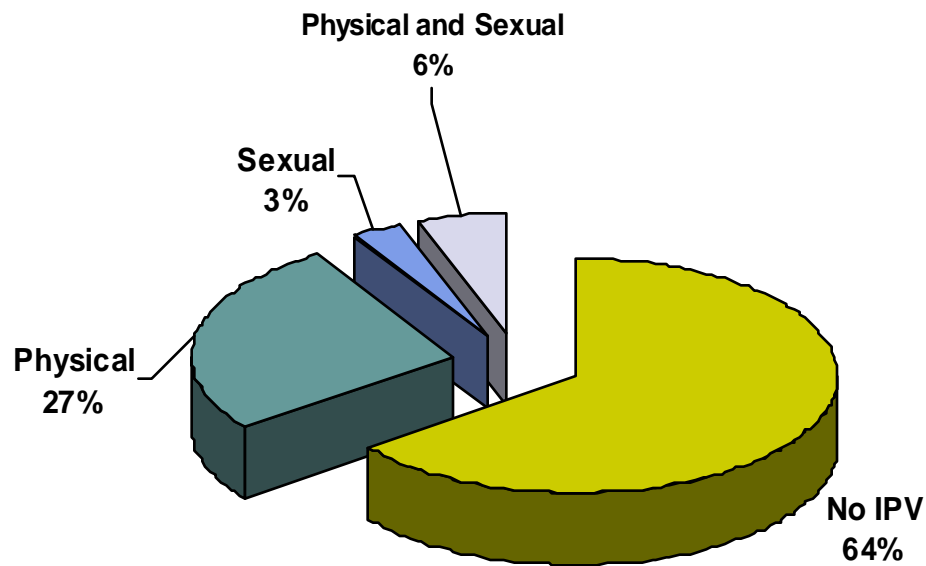


Source: Zimbabwe DHS 2005-06





Prevalence of IPV among Married Women

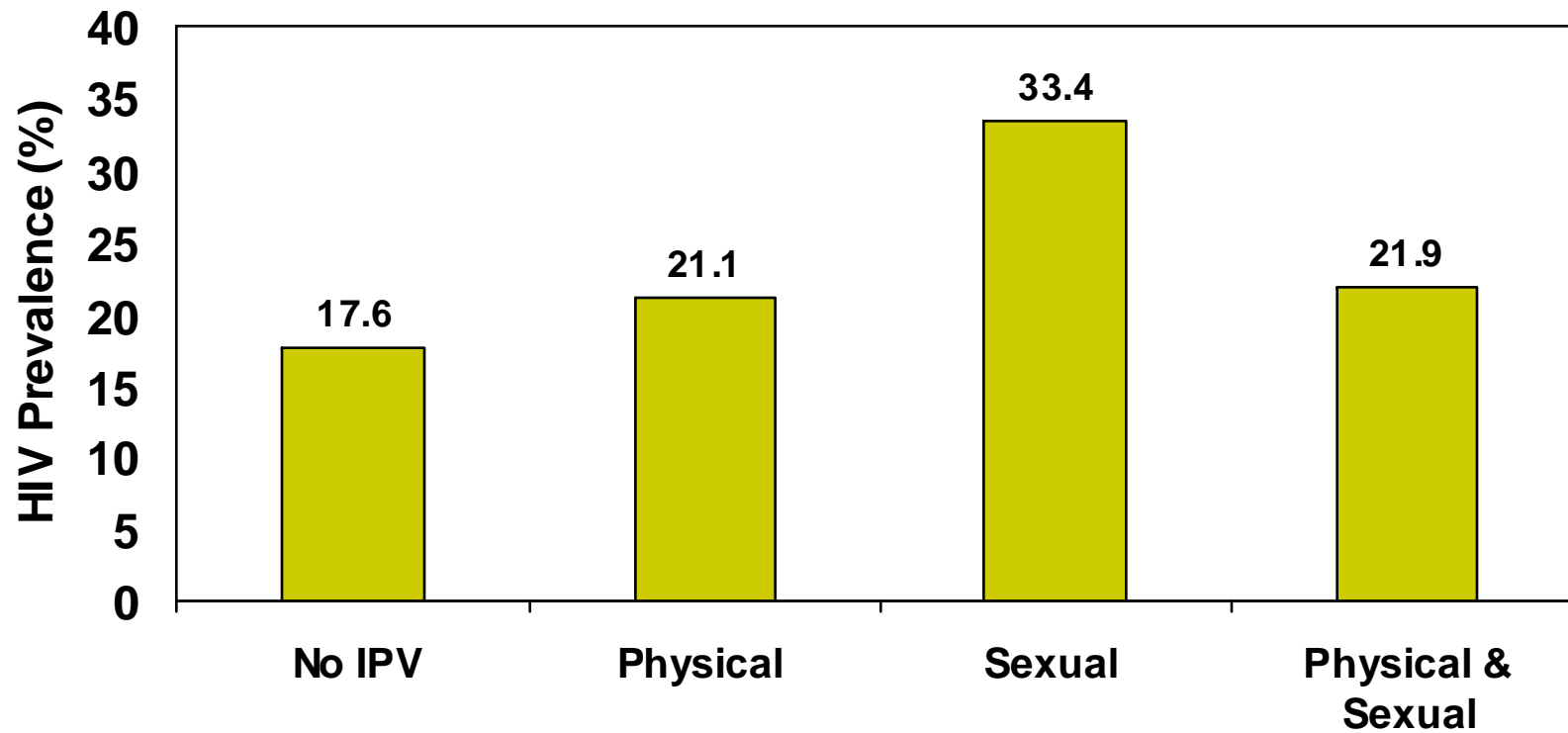


Source: Zimbabwe DHS 2005-06





HIV prevalence by history of IPV



Source: Zimbabwe DHS 2005-06



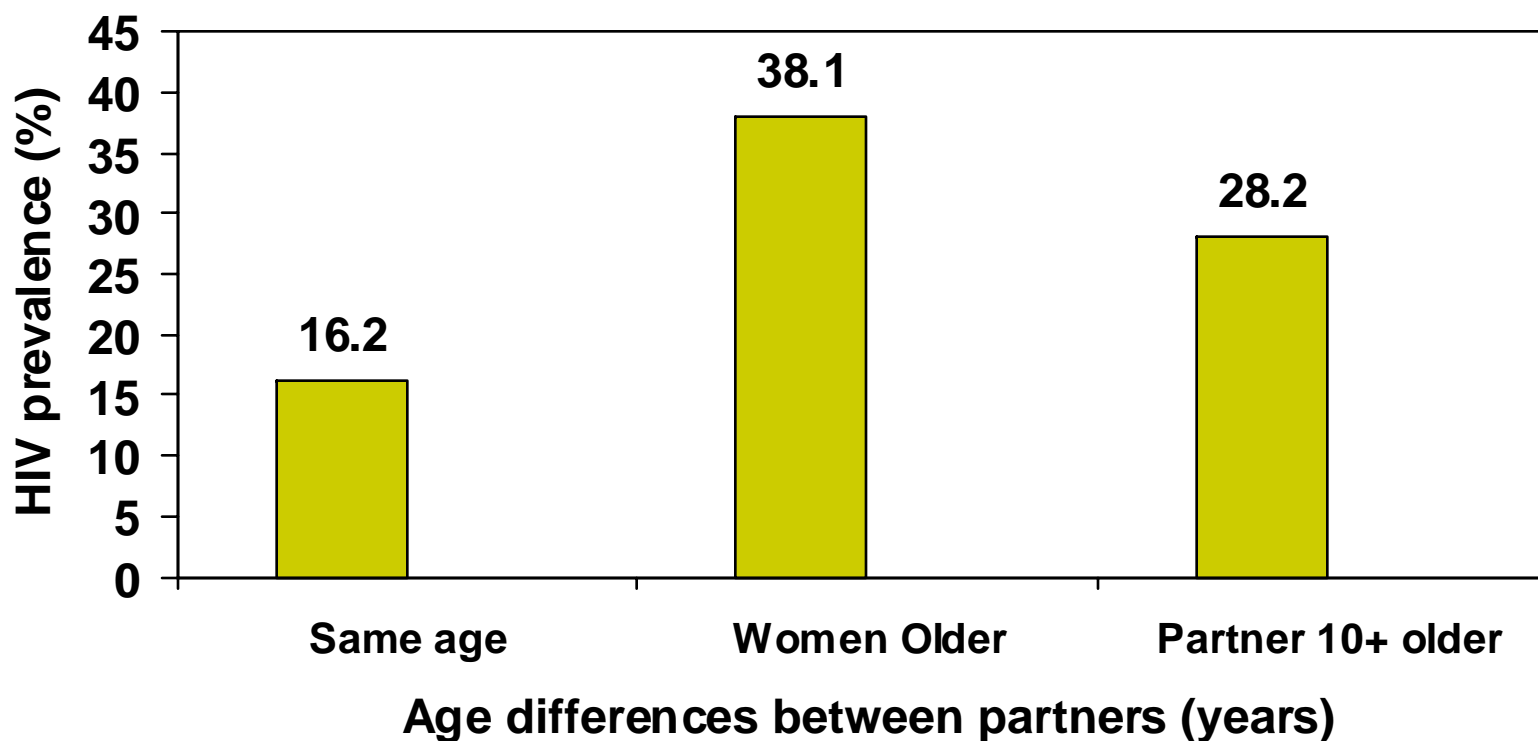
Gender Inequality Indicators



- **Gender inequality indicators**
 - Age differences between partners (categorical variable)
 - Perceived contraception use responsibility (2 items)
 - Perceived use of violence in relationship (5 items)
 - Male dominance scripts (4 items)
 - Male sexual control (4 items)
- **Sexual behavior empowerment**
 - Refuse sex (binary variable)
 - Can ask partner to use condom (binary variable)



HIV prevalence by age differences between partners



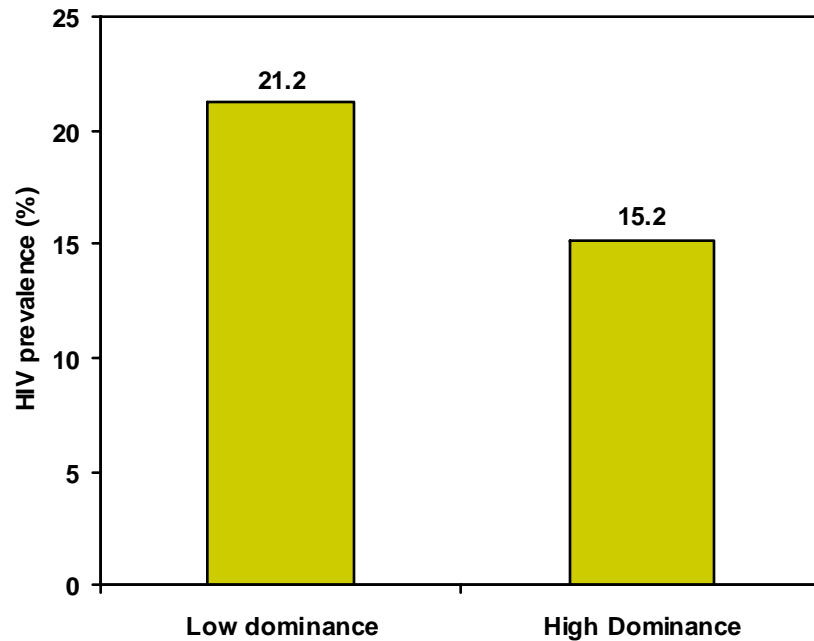
Source: Zimbabwe DHS 2005-06



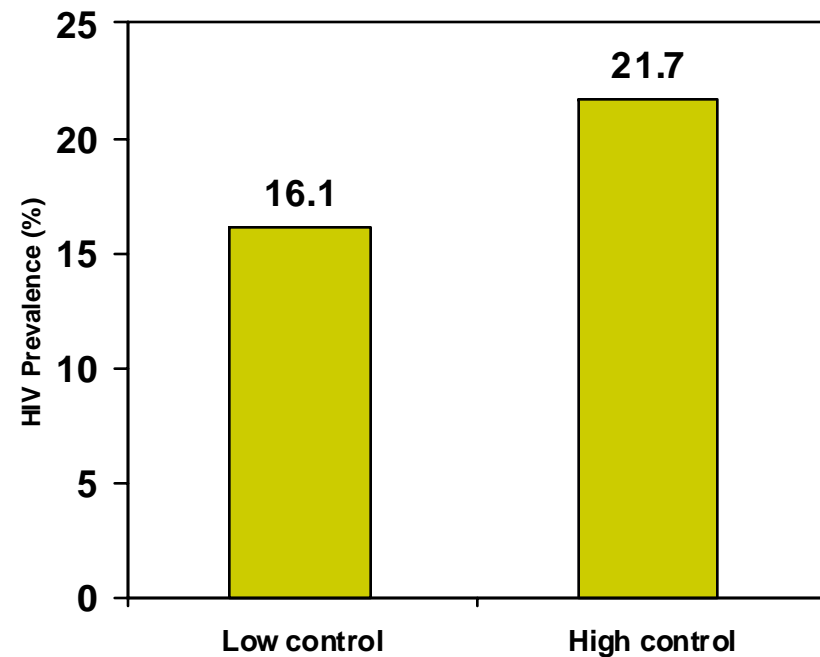
HIV prevalence by gender inequality



Male Dominance Scripts



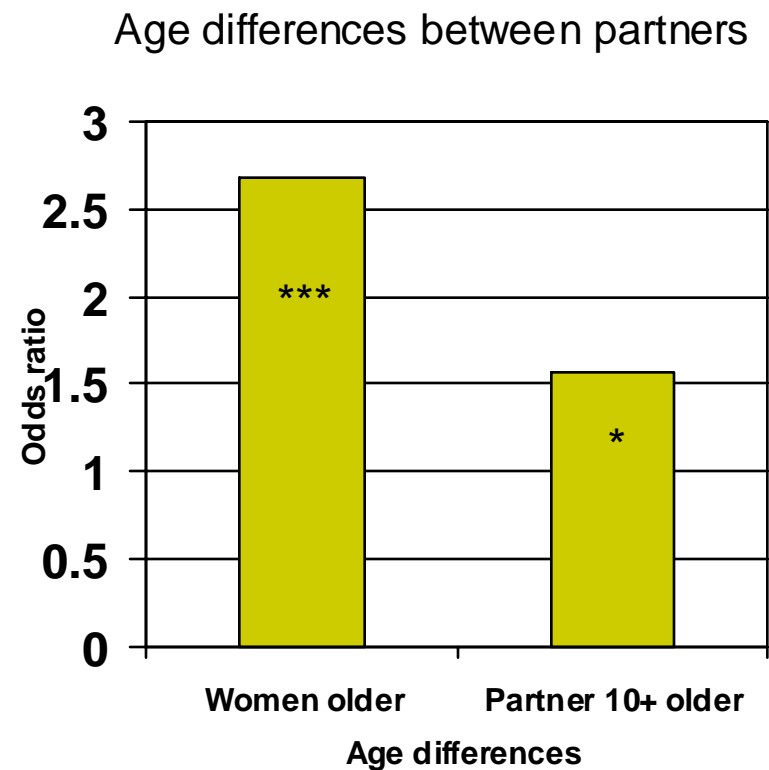
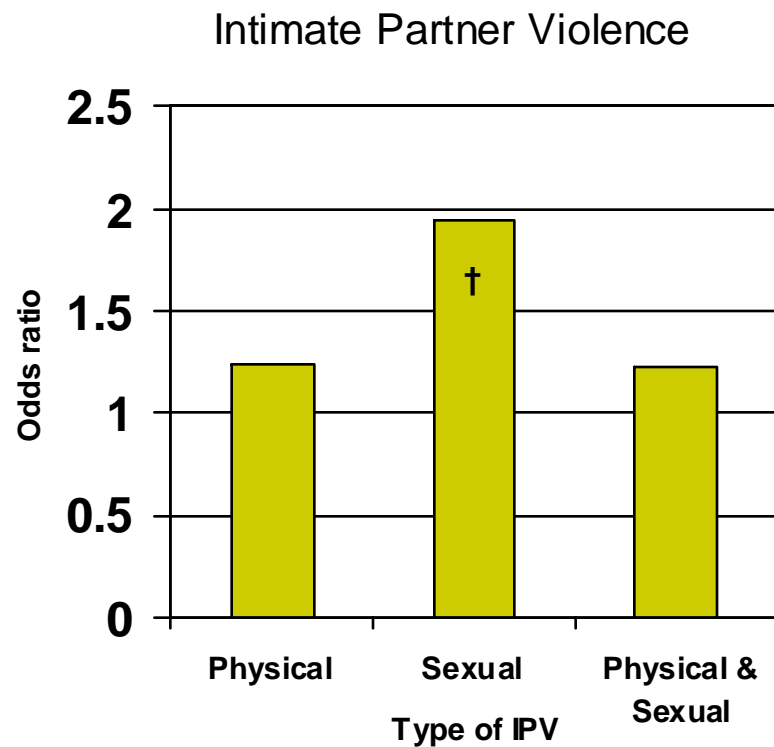
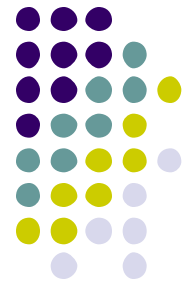
Male Sexual Control



Source: Zimbabwe DHS 2005-06



Multivariate Analysis : IPV and Age differences between partners



Referent category: No IPV

***p<0.001; **p<0.01; *p<0.05; †p<0.10.

Referent category: same age or men 1-9yrs older



Multivariate Analysis: Gender Inequality and Sexual Behavior Empowerment



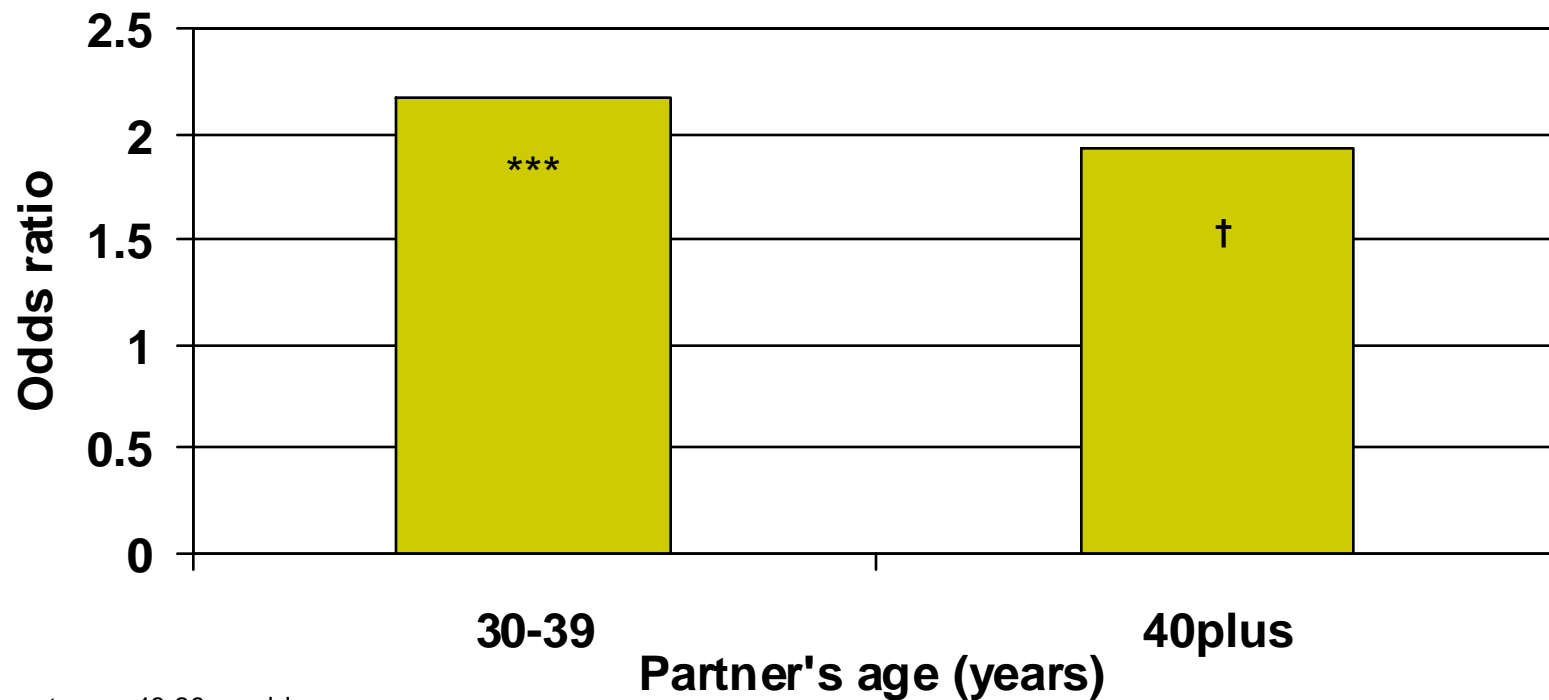
Variable	OR	95% CI	p-value
Male dominance script			
Low dominance script (ref)	1		
High dominance script	0.71	0.49-1.02	p<0.05
Can ask partner to use condoms			
No (ref)	1		
Yes	0.71	0.51-1.00	P<0.05

ref – reference category



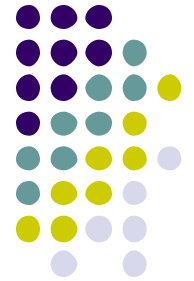


Multivariate Analysis: Partner's Age



Reference category: 18-29 yrs old
***p<0.001; **p<0.01; *p<0.05; †p<0.10.





Multivariate Analysis: Partner's Behavioral Characteristics

Variable	OR	95% CI	p-value
Condom use at last sex			
No (ref)	1		
Yes	1.62	1.01-2.62	p<0.05
Number of lifetime sexual partners			
1 (ref)	1		
2+	1.95	1.18-3.22	p<0.01

ref – reference category





Multivariate Analysis: Number of times slept away from home



Reference category: 18-29 yrs old

***p<0.001; **p<0.01; *p <0.05; †p<0.10





Discussion

- Findings demonstrate a high prevalence of physical violence among married women (27%)
- Men's characteristics mediated the relationship between IPV and HIV.
 - After adjusting for partner characteristics, only moderate relationship between IPV and HIV is discernable
- Link between gender inequality and HIV: age differences between partners and male dominance script
- Link between sexual behavior empowerment and HIV: ask a partner to use condom





Discussion

- Link between women's current partner characteristics and HIV: age, condom use at last sex, # of lifetime sexual partners, and # of times slept away from home
- Women's individual and behavioral characteristics associated with HIV serostatus: age, religion and number of lifetime sexual partners
- Need HIV prevention programs that include men and deal with issues of power, violence and communication
- Gender based violence screening and services should be integrated into VCT programs





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